



**JOHN R. FROINES**  
... standing ovation

## Plea for Panther Cheered

By Richard M. Cohen  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Nine hundred Montgomery County high school students cheered enthusiastically yesterday as a defendant in the Chicago trial told them they must now turn their attention to "getting Bobby Seale out of jail."

During a 45-minute speech before the Montgomery County region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils, John R. Froines, 31, returned repeatedly to the fate of Seale, the Black Panther leader, as his audience interrupted with applause and shouts of "right on."

When he had finished, the students gave him a standing ovation. Many pressed around him to seek his autograph.

Federal Judge Julius Hoffman ordered Seale tried separately from the other seven defendants in the Chicago riot conspiracy trial and sentenced him to four years in jail for contempt of court after Seale insisted on defending himself. Froines was one of two defendants acquitted by the jury, but faces a sentence of five months and 15 days for contempt.

Froines told the students assembled at Montgomery Blair High School that Seale "was

the most important thing in the whole case. I think he was the most symbolic thing in the whole trial."

"Because no matter how hard the government tried they could not bind and gag Bobby Seale," he added. "And no matter how hard the government tries they can't bind and gag the black revolution movement in the United States."

Froines, a professor of chemistry at the University of Oregon, reproached American young people for blandly accepting the jailing of Seale

and suggested that pressure from the people would result in his release.

"When we were taken off to jail there was rioting across the country," Froines said. "When Bobby Seale was taken away nothing happened. That can't be."

"It wasn't the appellate court that got us out," pending appeal, he continued. "It was the people of the country. The people in Berkeley, Santa Barbara (where a Bank of America branch was burned), New York and especially Washington."